

IN FOCUS

The official publication of
The Jamaican Canadian
Association

November 1996

Serving the Black & Caribbean Community for 34 Years

Judge rules deportation law unfair

By Elaine Thompson

A convicted Jamaican-born man who came to Canada at nine years old, and who rehabilitated himself in prison, should not be deported without being given a hearing, a federal court judge has ruled.

With this decision, Madam Justice Barbara Reed has challenged a 1995 immigration law that allows officials to deport people considered a danger to the public, without an explanation.

According to the Toronto Star, Jeffrey Hugh Williams was sentenced in 1992 to four years in prison for a minor drug charge. Williams overcame his drug addiction in prison, was released after serving three years, continued to receive counselling and enrolled in business school. To deport him without saying why he is still considered a danger to the public does not meet "the principles of fundamental justice, natural justice and fairness" the judge said.

Jamaican Canadian Association

president Herman Stewart said the judge's decision restores some faith in Canada's legal system. That faith was eroded by the haste with which the federal government passed the law last year, in response to sensationalized reports in the media about Jamaican-born Canadians who committed crimes.

"Our community has always believed no crime should go unpunished," said Stewart. "But we have always questioned whether deportation is a solution -- especially when the individual was socialized in Canada. I hope that more of these kinds of judicial decisions are made, to compel all of us to find more appropriate ways to deal with the issues."

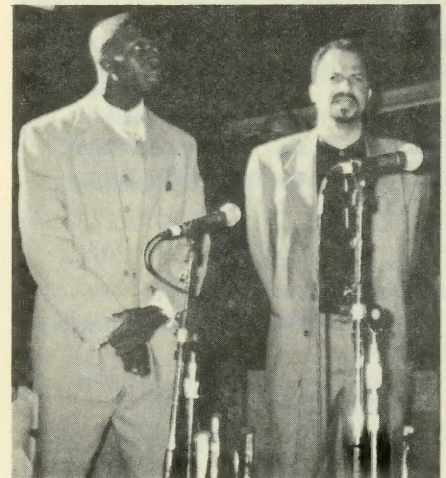
Immigration lawyer Courtney Betty said although the judge's ruling is very specific to the Williams case, it is enough for him to consider reopening some of the cases where his clients were deported on the grounds of be-

ing a danger to the public.

"This is a very courageous decision by Madam Justice Reed," Betty noted. "It is not often the federal court rules against the government."

Jamaica's Consul General, Margarietta St. Juste was unable to comment on the case, for diplomatic reasons. However, she said as dean

see "Immigration" on p. 5



Something catches the eye of the fastest man in the world (left) at the recent community tribute held at the JCA Centre. Standing on the right is JCA President Herman Stewart. See story on page 4.

Quarterly General Meeting

Guest speaker:

Margaret Gittens

Co-chair, the Commission on Systemic Racism in the
Ontario Criminal Justice System

Sunday, ^{Nov} Aug. 24 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

JCA Centre, 995 Arrow Road

Phone (416)746-5772

Inside Highlights

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Police need new ways to handle mentally ill

Black males who are mentally ill can expect to live a shorter than normal life in Canada, especially in Metropolitan Toronto. In this city, three mentally ill Black males were killed by police in the last nine years, two of them this year alone.

It is public knowledge that police officers in Ontario, except for those in Peel Region, have no training or education to deal with the mentally ill-except to shoot them.

Peter Button, a use of force instructor, told an inquest that Metro Toronto's Sergeant Ben Troina had "no other option" but to shoot Tommy Barnett because that's how he was trained to subdue a person with "an edged weapon".

For Mr. Button to say there was no

other option is nothing more than a shameless attempt to legitimize poor and possibly racist judgement on the part of police.

One option clearly at the police's disposal is to immediately contact and enlist the help of family members. Another option is to get help from a mental institution or community organizations. In all cases, police can employ tactics to buy time until family or institutional assistance arrives.

The mentally ill, Black or otherwise, should not be at the mercy of police officers who think shooting is easier

than trying to subdue the subject in a non-life threatening manner.

Police services and individual officers should be reminded that their first duty is to protect citizens from crime. And being mentally ill does not automatically mean you should be considered and treated as a criminal.

Police services must show responsibility and commitment, and institute training immediately on how to deal with the mentally ill without the use of lethal force. When it's all said and done, that is their most important option.

Task Force issues survey

Seven people have been selected for a Task Force to review the structure and work of the Jamaican Canadian Association in the context of a changing society.

The seven members are: **Sandra Carnegie-Douglas**, First Vice-president and Chair of the Task Force; **Lozan Bowen** of the Young People's Access Forum, youth representative; **Josh Thompson**, of the Caribbean Canadian Seniors' Club, representing seniors; **Erma Collins** and **Sheila Raymond**, veteran JCA-ers representing the membership; **Lisa Chin Quee**, Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program counsellor at the Scarborough Office, representing the JCA staff; and **Kay Blair**, President of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, representing external agencies.

The task force began its work by issuing a questionnaire for JCA members (inserted in this issue). All are urged to complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible.

Public consultations are scheduled to begin the end of November. More information will be given at the Nov.

24 quarterly membership meeting.

The Board's recommendation to sponsor the task force was ratified by members at the August quarterly meeting. The panel aims to assess the effectiveness of the Association, to identify any gaps and recommend solutions. The goal is to ensure the stability and growth of the Association.

New ass't secretary

Claudette McFadden, a receptionist with Bell Canada and a volunteer at Westpark Hospital, has kindly assumed the duties of Assistant Secretary on the JCA's Board of Directors.

"Over the years, I have observed the contribution that Jamaicans have made to Canada," said McFadden, who came to Canada in 1989. "I am impressed by the efforts of the JCA to ensure that these contributions are acknowledged, and with their fund-raising efforts to support projects for the community here in Canada and back in Jamaica."

President Herman Stewart welcomed McFadden to the Board.

A Message From the President, Herman Stewart

High-power fundraising starts December

During the past two months fundraising has gotten most of my attention. We now have in place a coordinating committee for our corporate fund-raising campaign. Kamala Jean Gopie is chairing this committee; other members are Bromley Armstrong and Erma Collins. They have met several times and have identified a number of prominent people from within as well as from outside our community to serve on the corporate campaign committee.

Lincoln Alexander has accepted our invitation to be honorary co-chair and we are hoping to hear the same from Donovan Bailey. We will officially launch the campaign Dec. 6.

In September we met with a number of professional fund-raisers from the United Jewish Appeal. We picked up some valuable pointers from them which will help us in our campaign. We are also in the process of finalizing plans for the car raf-

fle. Hopefully by the time you receive this report it would have been launched.

We met the Mayor of Toronto on Sept. 11 to discuss employment equity, especially as it pertains to the fire department. The Solicitor General however has finally confirmed that he will not meet with us to discuss policing issues. He joins the Minister of Citizenship, who has also refused to meet us.

I spent a lot of time in September working with ten other community organizations on the Donovan Bailey Tribute. I am sure you have heard by now that it was a success.

There is no news yet on our rezoning application. We are optimistic that by January we will have something to report. We have made an appeal to have our property taxes reduced because of our non-profit status. Our appeal will be heard

sometime in the fall.

At the Board level things are going fine. We now have a replacement for Assistant Secretary and by the next membership meeting we will have a new Executive Secretary.

The car is here!

by Patricia Williams

Be at the JCA Centre on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. You will see the 1997 Ford Escort (from Yorktown Ford) that you will get a chance to win in the JCA's most ambitious fundraising activity yet. Tickets are \$5, and the draw will be held Mar. 22, 1997 at a JCA dinner dance at the OFL Building, 15 Gervais Drive in Don Mills. Get your tickets and your chance to win for yourself, for the JCA and for your community.

Xmas Grandmarket. Mark your calendars folks, and tell your friends of the very special, Christmas Grandmarket, to be held at the JCA on Saturday, Nov. 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a fun-filled day of early Christmas shopping. Try your luck at a game of bingo and win some extra cash to shop until you drop. There will be a variety of vendors. And when you become tired, sit in the story book room and listen to Anancy stories. Or you might become curious enough to sit still for a round of psychic readings. Table rentals are only \$25. Invite your friends and family, bring your children and grandchildren...or, come alone. See you all there!

Help us to "Build and Serve" by volunteering a few convenient hours of your time to help us move forward.

JCA says no to civilian oversight panel

The JCA has politely but firmly declined an invitation from a government-appointed panel to comment on the effectiveness of systems dealing with public complaints about police misconduct.

The Review of Ontario's System of Civilian Oversight of the Police, led by lawyer Roderick McLeod, was given one month to examine the numerous channels for public complaints, and recommend how to make the system simpler and better. The panel must report to the government by mid-November.

JCA President Herman Stewart said the government did not consult the

community when it developed the panel's terms of reference, and that the time is too short to provide meaningful community input.

"Not only that, there are no community members on the panel, even though the government knows civilian oversight is an ongoing and important issue for this community," Stewart said. "We will not legitimize what is clearly an attempt to skew the oversight report in favour of other interests."

Stewart is urging the panel, and Attorney General Charles Harnick, to put in place a review process that is truly open to community input.

INFOCUS is published by the Jamaican Canadian Association, 995 Arrow Road North York, Ontario M9M 2Z5 Telephone: (416) 746-5772, Fax: (416) 746-7035

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Editorial Committee: Herman Stewart, Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, Alfred Irving, Billroy Powell, Elaine Thompson.

Letters and submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for length.

Bailey pays tribute to parents

By Neil Armstrong

It was standing room only in the newly-bought JCA building at 995 Arrow Rd, as people came out to pay tribute to Jamaican-born Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey.

When Bailey appeared on stage, he was met with a standing ovation. Cameras flashed. Applause thundered. It was a proud moment for Jamaicans and Canadians.

Bailey was the guest of honour at a special musical tribute organized by the Jamaican-Canadian community in recognition of his Olympic excellence, and his status as a role model. Bailey, the fastest man in the world, won the 100 metre sprint at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in a record 9.84 seconds.

"A lot of role model [expectations] are put upon athletes, Bailey told the audience of mostly parents, children and dignitaries. "Fortunately for me, I

had the best mother in the world and I had the best father in the world. [Parents] are the two role models I think everyone should be looking to."

JCA President Herman Stewart said Bailey showed that dreams do become reality, and invited the athlete back for the grand opening of the JCA Centre. One of the Centre's recreation rooms will be named the Donovan Bailey Community Room. Founding JCA member Violet Carter presented Bailey with a plaque in recognition of his achievement.

Jamaica's acting Consul General Effie Stewart presented him a gift, of a wooden box containing the Jamaican flag, specially made for him. She said Bailey has given a lift to Jamaicans' national pride.

Jamaica's Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sport, Portia Simpson presented a sculpture of Jamaica's hero-

ine, Nanny. She said it depicts the spirit of Nanny who was defiant and determined to succeed when she took on the British.

"Every time you look at it, you'll remember your mother. And, every time you look at it, you'll remember the woman of your life," said Simpson.

Jean Augustine, MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore brought greetings from the federal government, and Alvin Curling, MPP for Scarborough-North described Bailey as an ambassador.

Bailey thanked the Jamaican community for the tribute, and encouraged the audience to support the JCA centre because it is a Black-owned establishment. The night ended with an appeal by JCA President Herman Stewart for contributions to the building fund.



Walkathon honours

(Above photo) Past president Karl Fuller (l) receives a special gift from JCA President Herman Stewart in September for collecting the highest amount of pledges from the JCA's spring Walkathon. Meanwhile, donors in kind received a special plaque for their contribution. (Right photo) Patty Palace owner Michael Davidson accepts a plaque from fundraising committee member Bruce McDonald, who also made a presentation to McDonald's Restaurants representatives Andre White (centre) and Vicki Dickson (top right photo).



Keeping busy with programs and the community

By Akwatu Khenti, Executive Director

First, a few key issues that affect our programming over the short term:

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) is adopting a stricter line, and has instituted new criteria for defining clients and for assessing the number of clients. The primary issue for the JCA is the onerous level of reporting required.

The Jobs Ontario program of Human Resources Development Canada has provided us two administrative assistants for our two offices, from now until Mar. 31.

The tribute to Donovan Bailey kept the office abuzz with calls and inquiries, and it kept me in touch with various segments of our community (especially the media). Some newspaper reports interpreted the tribute as a fundraiser for the JCA but it was no such thing. The admission price was intended to cover the costs of the

event. The organizers (11 groups including the JCA) managed to break even.

Second, an update on our programs:

We have a number of programs in several schools in North York, Toronto, East York, and Scarborough. These include after-school programs, a young women's group and a series of life-skills sessions.

The Caribbean Youth and Family Service (CYFS) office has 10 college students working on placement with the staff on school programs. Manager Heather Williams has developed annual work plans for the students, emphasizing that they will maintain manageable caseloads, facilitate groups, visit jails, conduct in-school services, as well as help in the CYFS office and other JCA programs. Some high school students also volunteer for the program.

The staff recently held a one-day planning meeting to set an action plan for the next three months.

The Saturday morning tutoring program has been rekindled and Michelle Allick and Billroy Powell are working to ensure that we have good results this

academic school year. Billroy is also working with Michelle to develop the JCA's drug abuse prevention program in the City of Toronto.

Third, by way of active community outreach:

President Herman Stewart and I met with Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall regarding equity issues. I later met with City of Toronto staff on Oct. 23 to discuss ways of working together to improve community access to employment in the fire department.

I represented the JCA in two consultations on the United Way's Strategic Allocations Review. The United Way is developing new criteria to assess agency effectiveness. I don't foresee any major difficulty for us in responding to these changes.

I was also the keynote speaker at the Ontario Coalition of Black Tradespeople's annual employment fair on Oct. 5. It was a very successful event and provided a great opportunity to get out our message of community responsibility.

Immigration

continued from p. 1

of the Caribbean Consular Corps when the law was being considered, she met with the Immigration Department with concerns about the proposed law's lack of due process.

Recently, a Jamaican delegation led by National Security and Justice Minister K. D. Knight met with new immigration minister Lucienne Robillard to discuss the issue of deportations. However, Robillard remained unreceptive.



The JCA Violence Against Women Program

Services free and confidential.
Immediate appointments.
Contact Rita McLean, 746-5772.

JCA volunteers honoured

Francine Martin, Billroy Powell and Violet Carter (above) were among seven people who received volunteer service awards from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. Other awardees are Frank Wallace, Inez Hylton, Trevor Lewis and Linda Gray. The awards ceremony took place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in September.

Party new year's eve!

By Barbara Thomas

Our annual summer activities went off with their usual success. The flag raising ceremony, celebrating its 15th anniversary, featured old faces and new. The annual independence church service, coordinated by the Jamaican Consulate and other community groups, took place as usual at St. Michael's and All Angels Church. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Don Taylor, an assistant bishop from New York and one of our own Jamaicans, gave an inspirational sermon.

Our independence dinner at The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Building in Don Mills, had overwhelming success in attendance. Veteran journalist Dwight Whyllie was our guest speaker. Thanks to our emcee Denise Jones, and to Wayne Tennant and Sealed With A Kiss dancers for providing entertainment. A special thanks also to the president and members of the West Indian Social and Cultural Organization for their support.

New Year's Eve dinner and dance: on Tuesday Dec. 31 at the OFL Building, 15 Gervais Drive, Don Mills. Cost: \$65 single, \$120 per couple, \$25 dance only. (Please see ad elsewhere in newsletter). Tickets are available from the JCA office and committee members. Purchase your tickets early, so we can make the appropriate arrangement for a fantastic function.

The Committee wishes to thank the staff, families and friends of JCA, and the other committees, who all have supported us in 1996. We also wish you good health, a safe winter, a happy Christmas and God's guidance for 1997.

Don't move

...without telling us your new address!

Call (416) 746-5772

Tried and true Xmas recipes

Christmas Pudding or Cake

Note: For Christmas cake, use flour; for pudding, use bread crumbs.

2 lbs raisins	12 eggs, beaten
1/2 lb currants	2 tbsp. browning
1 lb prunes	2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 lb cherries	Grated rind of 1 green lime
1/4 lb dates	1/2 lb flour (for cake) OR
1/4 lb mixed peel	1/2 lb bread crumbs (for pudding)
1 pint rum	3 tbsp. baking powder
1 pint wine	1/4 tsp. salt
1 pint sherry	1 tsp. nutmeg
1 lb butter	2 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 lb dark sugar	1/4 lb nuts, chopped

Fruits may all be placed in a container with wine & sherry, and either stewed or left to steep over a period of time. Do not include nuts.

Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs, browning (burnt sugar may be used for colouring), vanilla and grated rind.

Sieve together flour or bread crumbs, baking powder, salt and spices. Add to liquid mixture. Stir in fruit and nuts.

Taste mixture. If a sharper taste of liquor is needed, add some brandy, wine, liqueur or rum.

Pour batter into a well-greased and heavily-lined baking tin or pudding basin.

For pudding, cover tightly and bake for at least 4 hours in a 250 degree oven.

For cake, bake open at 300 degrees for 3 hours. Cool thoroughly before slicing.
(Contributed by Barbara Thomas)

Sorrel

8 cups sorrel sepals	3 qt boiling water
1 oz root ginger	about 1 cup of granulated sugar
6 cloves	1 cup white rum (optional)
8 pimento seeds	

Place sorrel, ginger, cloves and pimento in a large mixing bowl. Cover with boiling water and leave to stand overnight. Strain. Sweeten to taste. Add rum if desired. Serve with ice at Christmas time.

(Contributed by Pat Williams)

Christmas Grand Market

Saturday, Nov. 30

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jamaican Canadian Centre

995 Arrow Road, North York

Table rental: \$25

For more information call (416) 746-5772

Sponsored by the Caribbean Canadian Seniors' Club

Scrutinizing the goals of workfare

Work-for-welfare, the Ontario Works program remains a government priority. However, many municipalities that enlisted with the program have not met the October 1 deadline for launching their local programs. This article continues the discussion begun last issue about the misconceptions of workfare.

By Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

Among workfare's many assumptions is that people receiving social assistance should be prepared to take any kind of job -- regardless of childcare needs, appropriate working conditions, financial stability (in terms of long-term employment), or personal fulfilment.

Workfare is also expected to move individuals from welfare to long-term employment by providing them new skills and more opportunities for employment -- thereby reducing the number of people on social assistance.

On closer scrutiny, these goals and assumptions far from guarantee the success of workfare as a tool to reduce welfare rolls and save costs.

Workfare does not prepare recipients for long-term employment:

Workfare relies on the private sector and non-profit groups (including municipalities) to create and sponsor temporary or short-term work projects. However, the provincial government has not clearly committed to help cover the costs of employment supports, job placements or community placements. This limits the effectiveness of work projects as training opportunities that will meet the skills or needs of the recipients, and prepare them for sustainable employment. As well, it does not necessarily bring about long-term savings in welfare costs.

Workfare does replace people in

jobs:

Which employer would not use the opportunity to hire someone on workfare to do the same job as an employee currently costing the employer 2 or 3 times more in wages? Workfare not only has the potential to replace people currently employed, it also can potentially reduce wage levels in the workplace. Workfare may also affect standards in the workplace, since the government has no plan to ensure employers do not abuse workfare participants and/or the employees they work with.

Workfare does not take into account social barriers:

Many welfare recipients face barriers in acquiring employment because of race, age, social status or other factor -- including the fact of being on social assistance. Being on workfare would be one more stigma attached to these individuals. The program also has no additional supports to level the playing field for these welfare recipients, so they have an equal chance in the fierce competition for long-term jobs.

Workfare's social costs:

What is the social cost for those recipients who do not comply with workfare requirements and are cut off from assistance? And doesn't workfare simply shift the welfare cost burden from one level of government to another? Or from the public sector to communities that are primarily dependent on government funding for their existence and survival?

If this government is truly sincere about improving the life situations of those receiving social assistance then it must be prepared to back its commitment with strong financial support. This will help create meaningful jobs, appropriate training programs, and resources to properly assess the needs of recipient groups and adjust the pro-

gram to those needs.

Effective workfare also requires the government to develop partnerships with the recipients, community, labour and private sector. As much as this government may try, it cannot completely wash its hands of its social responsibility.

A Prayer For Shut ins

Lord, in my misfortune I have found
A blessing in disguise,
Wherein the fruits of discontent
Have opened up my eyes.

In my misfortune I have found
The courage to repent;
And in forgiveness I have found
The wells of sweet content...

In my misfortune I have found
A beacon in the night.
Today the clouds have rolled
away;
At last I see the light. Amen.

D. Crane

"In my Misfortune"

(Contributed by Alfred Irving)

Caribbean-Canadian Seniors Group

995 Arrow Road

Mon. Tues. & Thurs.

11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Our activities include: arts and crafts, choral group, discussions, seminars and field trips.

Come and meet people who will treat you like family and a friend.

For more information, call us at 746-5772.

Notices

JCA CALENDAR 96

Quarterly General Meeting Nov. 24
 Xmas Grandmarket Nov. 30
 Fundraising Launch Dec. 6
 Children's Xmas Party Dec. 8
 New Year's Eve Dinner Dec. 31

*For the latest information, please call the
 JCA at (416) 746-5772.*

JCA BINGO SCHEDULE

Date	P.M.	Coord.
Dec. 6	7:15	M. Amiel
Dec. 21	1:00	B. Carter
Jan. 10	7:15	N.L. Bailey
Jan. 18	1:00	M. Amiel
Jan. 31	10:15	B. Carter
Feb. 15	7:15	N.L. Bailey
Feb. 22	1:00	M. Amiel
Feb. 28	7:15	B. Carter
Mar. 7	10:15	N.L. Bailey
Mar. 22	1:00	M. Amiel
Apr. 4	7:15	B. Carter
Apr. 19	10:15	N.L. Bailey
May 3	1:00	M. Amiel
May 10	1:00	B. Carter
May 16	10:15	N.L. Bailey
June 6	7:15	M. Amiel

Season's Greetings & a Prosperous 1997

to all our members and friends
 from the Board and Staff of the
 Jamaican Canadian Association

Start your own business

Join the Jamaican Canadian
 Association & COSTI
 for a small business
 development workshop

Lawrence Heights
 Community Centre,
 5 Replin Rd
 Friday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Kerry-Ann Gray, Costi
Madge Linton, The
 Caribbean & African
 Chamber of Commerce
Trevor Alleyne, Black
 Business & Professional
 Association
Brina Sette, Calmeadow
 Metro Fund

For information call 746-5772

Parenting For Success

A workshop at York Woods
 Library
 Saturday, Nov. 23, 1996 9
 a.m.-1 p.m.

*Call 947-5772 for information
 Sponsored by the
 JCA Education Committee*

**The Jamaican
 Canadian Association
 cordially invites you to
 its**

34th annual NEW YEARS EVE BALL

**The OFL Building
 (main auditorium)
 15 Gervais Drive,
 Don Mills**

**Tuesday, Dec. 31
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